THE VETERAN

Vietnam Veterans Against the War

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Neutron Bombs, Cruise Missiles

NEW ARMS AIM TOWARD WAR

Cruise missiles. B-1 bombers. Neutron bombs. All have been in the news lately as decisions are being made on the type of weapons that are going to be part of the U. S. arsenal for the next several years. These are crucial years because of growing tension between the U. S. and the U. S. S. R. The two superpowers are on a collision course, and the danger of world war is constantly increasing. The decision to develop the cruise missile and the neutron bomb is a further step toward that war and an indication of the type of war they are planning. No matter how Jimmy tells it to us in his best back porch style, the cruise missile and the neutron bomb are offensive weapons whose primary purpose is to be used in a war with the Soviet Union.

These two superpowers are on a collision course because each is governed by a political-economic system which requires expansion into and exploitation of other countries. Profit is the name of the game, and the most profit can be made in gaining economic control over Europe. Europe will be the prize of World War III because it is one of the most highly developed industrial areas of the world and can return high profits to whomever captures her.

War might break out in the Middle East which supplies the oil for Europe's industry or in some smaller country elsewhere. But such a war might be a preliminary war or will eventually shift to the European field. At the same time the probability is high that the U. S. and the Soviet Union will be throwing nuclear warheads at civilian populations in each other's country and at military targets everywhere.

The type of weapons systems developed by the U. S.

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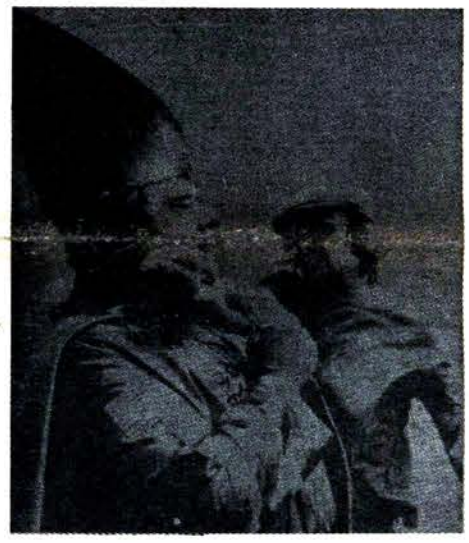
Run Them OUT!

ACTIONS HIT NAZIS & KKK



PHOTOS SHOW PEOPLE FIGHTING AGAINST THE SCUM LIKE THE KU KLUX KLAN AND THE NAZIS, SHOVING THEM BACK INTO THEIR SLIMEY HOLES. AT LEFT, PART OF THE "RUN THE NAZIS OUT" COALITION IN CHICAGO. AT RIGHT A WORKER LETS LOOSE AT A KKK IMPERIAL WIZARD IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, SHOWING HOW THE PEOPLE CAN BEST DEAL WITH SCUM LIKE THESE. (See article on page 12)

Upgraded Discharges Affected

CONGRESS MOVES TO CUT OFF BENEFITS

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Vets with bad paper discharges have been hearing a lot about Carter's new program for upgrading these discharges. And now Congress has gotten into the act to remind us that there is indeed a pot of manure at the end of every rainbow.

Currently there are a rash of bills in both houses of Congress to insure that anyone who receives an upgraded discharge under Carter's program will not be eligible for vets benefits. One such bill has been passed in the House (as an amendment tacked on to an appropriations bill) while the Senate is still considering a whole collection of such bills.

It would appear that the benefits of over 700,000 veterans from the Vietnam era are

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VETERANS' NOTES

Carter's Program: How and Who

DISCHARGE UPGRADING

Years of battle for universal, unconditional amnesty are behind the April announcement by the Defense Department that certain groups of veterans with bad discharges could get these discharges upgraded without going through the usual, slow-moving bureaucracy. Carter's discharge program goes nowhere near far enough; VVAW continues to demand a single-type discharge as we have for the past 5 years. And even this small concession on the part of the government is now under attack as Congress tries to shoot down any vets benefits (VA care, GI Bill) for vets who apply for discharges under this program (see article on page 1.)

Despite its many shortcomings, the discharge program may offer some help to thousands of vets who got various kinds of bad paper. Since, in typical fashion, the Veterans Administration and the Pentagon will make no effort to give vets the details of the program, "Vets' Notes" prints the steps necessary to make use of this program.

Eligibility

1. Vets with discharges except honorable or punitive (bad conduct or dishonorable discharges as a result of a court martial) are eligible.

2. The veteran must have been in the military between August 4, 1968 and March 28, 1973.

3. Undesireable and general discharges will be automatically upgraded for vets who:

* Were wounded as a result of military action.

* Got a U. S. military decoration other than a service medal.

* In Pentagonese, the vet must have "successfully completed an assignment in Southeast Asia of in the Western Pacific in support of operations in Southeast Asia." What this bureaucratic nonsense (which refuses to call Vietnam a war) means is that a Vietnam vet who got his bad discharge after his tour in Nam is eligible.

*Took part in the "clemency" program that President Fort trotted out right after his pardon of crook Nixon.

* Had an honorable discharge from a previous tour of duty.

* Put in two "good" years in the military before discharge.

Any of these qualifications mean that the discharge is automatically eligible for upgrading providing (another Pentagon kicker) "there are no compelling reasons to the contrary." While it is not clear yet how this will affect vets who apply for upgrading, what it does mean is that the government and the discharge boards still have their dirty thumbs on vets with bad paper, and can trot out the law concerning "compelling reasons" if they want to.

Procedures

Call the toll-free number (800) 325-4040 (if you are in Missouri, Hawii, Alaska or Puerto Rico, the number is (314) 428-3500). This is the number of the Joint Liaison Office in St Louis, Missouri, where they say there are 50 open phone lines between 7 AM and 8 PM (Central Time). An operator will ask, Are you applying for the Special Discharge Review Program? What kind of discharge did you get? If, according to these answers, you are not eligible for the program, the operator will then direct you to the normal, red-tape clogged discharge review system.

If you fall into one of the categories which makes the upgrading automatic, you will be asked for personal information in order to begin the application process. If you have already applied for upgrading, your application is automatically shifted to the Joint Liaison Office. Within 14 days you will get a letter of acknowledgement which may also ask for further information; you will have 30 days to supply this information.

If you have a UD and don't fall into one of these categories, you can still give it a try; the Pentagon says it will accept such evidence as character references, statements from people who "know the applicant and can attest to his or her good citizenship and efforts in self-improvement"!!, employment records or school transcripts. In other words, there's still a chance for you if you've been a good boy or girl since the military slapped your hands with a bad discharge, and taught you a lesson.

If, instead of calling the toll-free number, you want to write, the address is Joint Liaison Office (Attention: Army or Navy or USMC or Air Force Liaison Team), USARCPAC, St Louis, MO 63132. Calling is more efficient since the people in St Louis can ask their questions on the spot.

There are other, more complicated provisions in the Pentagon directive which deal with deserters and long-time AWOLs, many of whom are also eligible for the program. If you fall into that category, you can call the toll-free number (from a pay phone, just to be on the safe side) and get further information, or get in touch with the nearest VVAW chapter or the VVAW national office. The basic procedure is to return to the military, get an immediate discharge, and then go through the upgrading program, but there are all kinds of red-tape complications involved.

The Joint Liaison Office was established for only 6 months beginning the 5th of April, 1977. That means that vets who want to apply for this program have to do so before October 5, 1977.

What good is it? If vets benefits are not eliminated for these upgraded discharges, there are obvious reasons. Even if the bennies are cut off, there is still the question of getting a job and being able to show a good discharge to the prospective employer--though from long experience around such sneaky devices as SPN numbers, an old subterfuge by which the military could inform employers about any kind of "trouble-makers," there's no reason to believe that the upgraded discharges will not somehow be labelled.■

THOUSANDS BLOCKADE HOTEL, STOP EVICTIONS!

Once again, as they have so many times in the past, the courts and the bigshots in San Francisco were forced to back down on an attempt to evict the tenants and the community centers of the International Hotel. Most of the tenants are elderly Filipino and Chinese workers living on social security payments.

The corporation which owns the hotel has been trying to evict the residents, tear down the building and build something more profitable. The people of San Francisco have rallied to the tenants' defense. Four thousand people, including a contingent of VVAW massed in front of the hotel, arms linked, forming a human barricade until the police left, failing to evict the tenants.

The threat of eviction is not over. But the tenants and people of San Francisco are determined to fight to victory!

For more information or to send letters of support, write: Workers Committee to Fight For I-Hotel and Victory Building c/o Asian Community Center, 846 Kearny St, San Francisco, California

Vietnam Christmas Bombings

1972 MUTINY OF B-52 CREWS

Bach Mai Hospital, the largest in Indochina was destroyed by the ruthless B-52 raids.

A former B-52 pilot, Dana Drenkowski, writes in an upcoming issue of Soldier of Fortune that B-52 crews "mutinied" during the Christmas, 1972 bombings of North Vietnam. He states that the crews refused to go on bombing missions because "inept" tactics resulted in "large numbers of B-52s unnecessarily shot down and their crews crippled, killed or captured."

These bombings occurred between December 18 to 29. During these 12 days the US military conducted the most massive bombing raids in history. Over 100,000 tons of bombs were dropped. About 140 of the 200 B-52s stationed in Southeast Asia were used in addition to other tactical aircraft--over 900 in all.

Hospitals, civilian population centers, dikes, factories, diplomatic missions and other structures were destroyed. Thousands of people were killed and thousands more were wounded.

According to Drenkowski some pilots refused to fly because they were anti-war. Other pilots refused because they thought the Strategic Air Command was "inflexible" in planning the raids. But actions by both groups escalated the opposition the US military faced by its military personnel mainly in the field but now in its "elite" ranks--the air pilots.

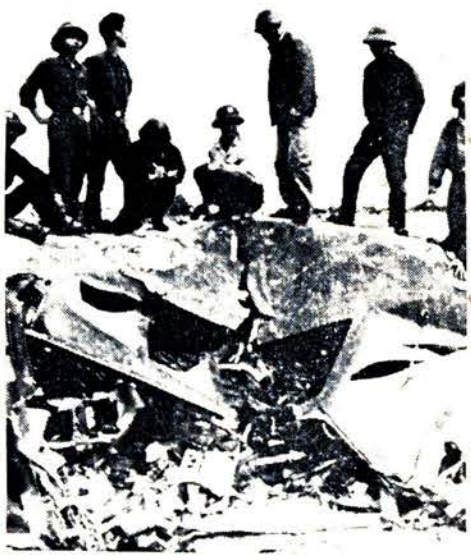
The plans of SAC were to have the B-52s preceded by F-111s flying at a low level attacking air fields. They were followed by F-4s dropping aluminum strips to blind radar, then the B-52s flying in formations of three planes, four minutes apart.

The Vietnamese were able to hit back--and hit back they did. In all they shot down 34 B-52s, five F-111s and 42 other aircraft. For B-52 pilots the reality of the war hit them smack in the face.

B-52s flew out of Guam and U Tapao, Thailand. Each day the crews would make "milk runs" to Vietnam, drop their bombs never seeing either their targets nor their results, fly back to base and go to the officers' clubs and have steak dinners and a few drinks.

These officers' clubs, according to Drenkowski, were where the crews "mutinied." They damaged the clubs and created a lot of disorder over their refusals to fly. One pilot actually made an anti-war statement to the press and was court-martialled and given a discharge for it. At least 12 others were reprimanded.

After two days of these riots the Air Force changed their tactical plans, but B-52s continued to be shot down. Finally on December 29, the raids ended, not for the "humanitarian" nonsense put forward by Nixon but because the toll to the US military was staggering.



Vietnamese survey the ruins of a B-52 shot down by a gun crew.

That their "strato-fortresses" were shot down in such a great number, and that their elite bombing crews reacted so violently, was objectively a great victory for the Vietnamese (despite the massive damage to their country), and to the American people who were opposed to the war in their millions.

Drenkowski puts forward the myth that the bombing raids were responsible for forcing the Vietnamese to sign the Paris Peace Agreement. This is an outright lie. A tentative agreement was reached in October, 1972, basically the same one finally signed. The bombings were put forward by Nixon as the "path to peace." But the bombings, while destructive, only further hardened the resolve of the Vietnamese people, and weakened the role of the US in the eyes of the world.

According to a statement made by the Vietnam Foreign Ministry on the day the raids ended, "...the North Vietnamese armed forces and people have firmly countered the US aggressors, winning a very glorious victory--the downing of 81 aircraft...and the wipeout or capture of a very great number of American flyers. This, on the other hand, constitutes an unparalleled defeat for the strategic air force of the US and the shattering of the image of the B-52 trump-card." ■

Part of a U.S. warplane shot down over North Vietnam.

Chopper Downed

U.S. Out of Korea!

The headlines screamed, "North Korea Shoots Down US Helicopter; Hint 3 Die." Another "incident" was underway in Korea. Only this time it was over quick and the one survivor was released. The US received him with its tail between its legs. Gone were the bellicose statements and the overreactive alerts ordered by the President. In its place was a ceremony with UN troops carrying the coffins of the dead and reports that the survivor suffered leg lacerations and a slightly swelled forehead.

The US helicopter invaded North Korean territory after it received warning shots from 3 South Korean lookout posts and flew over white markers along the DMZ warning that it was approaching the boundary line. It was shot down by North Korean troops and according to the survivor if the others had not tried to escape they wouldn't have been shot and killed.

The Pentagon said that the Koreans had the right to shoot it down and Carter soft-pedaled the entire incident. Why the change from the days of the Pueblo or the tree-cutting incident of last year? At those times, troops were alerted in their thousands and the air force was sitting on their bomb buttons. Has Carter gone soft? Has the Pentagon weakened? The answer is absolutely not.

Recently the US announced plans to withdraw 33,000 American troops from Korea. Critics said that South Korea would be invaded and it would weaken the US defense system in the Pacific.

But in this period with the US weakened internationally as a result of the Indochina War and the increasing economic crisis, the ruling class is rethinking its position and sees that more attention must be paid to Europe with its vast wealth, rather than the Pacific. By withdrawing troops from Korea the administration believes it can do so successfully without losing South Korea. After all, there has been no withdrawal plans for the Air Force units either from Korea or nearby Japan and Okinawa. The ruling class believes that these defenses plus the puppet South Korean troops can do the job. By

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1600 March and Rally

AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY

On African Liberation Day, May 28th, over 1,600 people of all nationalities, Black, white, Latino and others, marched in Washington DC to the steps of the White House in a militant show of support for the people of southern Africa who are fighting for their freedom. A contingent of veterans from VVAW marched in military cadence behind a banner proclaiming, "US Out of Southern Africa --Superpowers Hands Off!"

It was the most powerful ALD since this day was called by the Organization of African Unity in the early 1970s, because for the first time the focus of the march was aimed at the common enemy of both the people in southern Africa and the people in the US--the US ruling class.

While Jimmy Carter has his Black front man, Andrew Young running around the world foaming at the mouth about how he hates the racist government in South Africa, the people of the United States were exposing the truth about the situation there, saying "Get the hell out of Southern Africa."

But what Carter, Young & Company are doing is trying to make the best of the bad situation they find themselves in. They're trying to figure out how they can keep that area of the world safe for US business. What they'd really like to do is get rid of the racists in Salisbury and Pretoria and replace them with another set of puppets, only this time Black ones.

And while they are trying to run this, they are locked in stiff competition with the Soviet Union, the other superpower, who is trying to get in the back door by posing as the friend of the southern African freedom fighters, all the time really wanting to replace the US as the chief plunderer of the area.

And African Liberation Day proved that the American people aren't buying the schemes of the ruling rich. As the demonstrators wound their way through the streets of a Black neighborhood, chanting, "Carter, Young, You Can't Hide, We Know You're On the Racists Side," thousands of Blacks stood on the sidewalks, many shouting their approval, raising clenched fists of support, and some joining in the march.

CAMPAIGN BUILT BROAD

Around the country members of Youth In Action, VVAW, African Liberation Support Committees and the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization built for the rally broadly, stressing the need for multi-national unity. In Boston during the last week of the campaign the number of people going doubled. In New York an extra busload of people showed up at their meeting site. In Chicago an entire busload was filled with Black and white youth, many going to their first major demonstration in Washington.

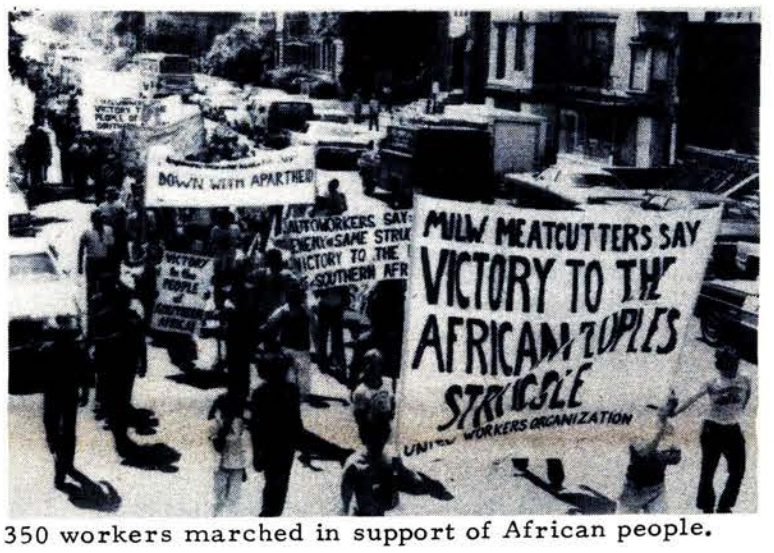
At the march and rally not only were workers, students, youth and vets there, but students from Iran, Ethiopia and Eritrea also came to express their support for the South African people. In Atlanta, Lou Hudson and Walt Bellamy, members of the Atlanta Hawks basketball team donated their sneakers to the fighters in South Africa and held a press conference urging other basketball players to do the same.

NAZIS, KLAN WHIPPED!

While building for the march was going on in Washington, the Ku Klux Klan, scum of the earth, threatened to disrupt the demonstration. They attacked the ALD office in Washington in the secrecy of night, breaking the window with a can of spray paint with a note attached stating, "Nigger-Commies Beware," and saying that they would stop the rally. But members of the ALDC retaliated immediately with a leaflet reading in part, "They (the KKK) fear working people, Black and white standing up against them.... We will not let a bunch of racists, bastards and chickens stop us...we'll roll right over them if they try."

On the day of the march the cowards didn't even get close, but their brothers in hate, the Nazis, did show up. About six of the stupidest people in the world marched in their brown shirts into the park where the people were gathering and swiftly and surely got their asses kicked by the Vietnam Vets Against the War and others. These fascist dogs were saved only by the police who ran in to protect these scum from the people's wrath. Instead of breaking up the rally these jerks made everyone more determined, particularly those who had Nazi blood on their knuckles.

VVAW contingent on African Liberation Day in Washington DC



350 workers marched in support of African people.

Over 600 students, organized by Youth In Action and the Revolutionary Student Brigade, lead the march in the Soweto Brigade, named for the town in South Africa where thousands of youth rose up to fight for freedom.

IMPORTANT RALLY HELD

At the rally in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, speakers talked about the struggle of the southern African people and what it means to the American people. One of the highlights of the rally was when David Sibeko of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa) announced the formation of the Azanian People's Liberation Army to take up the armed struggle against the racist, capitalist system in his country.

This crucial, important

(continued, page 15)

GENERALS 'REPRIMAND'

LOUDMOUTHS REASSIGNED

When President Carter recalled two top military brass hats to the White House and censured them, our "cherished democratic institutions" were hardly endangered; in fact this whole affair is only interesting for what they revealed as future trends and for some of the candid statements that were made.

The first incident began when the Washington Post ran a story quoting Major General John K. Singlaub that Carter's plan to withdraw US ground troops from southern Korea would "lead to war" by inviting a North Korean attack. Carter's plan calls for the withdrawal of some 40,000 US troops, consisting mainly of the US 2nd Infantry Division and support units, over a period of four to five years. US tactical air squadrons would remain and Carter would seek loans from Congress of up to 1.5 billion dollars in military aid for the South Korean regime.

Singlaub was the third highest ranking US general in South Korea and the Chief of Staff of US forces there. He was supposed to help sell this plan to the South Korean government. His open opposition led to his immediate recall.

Singlaub's error goes beyond loose lips or unsophistication with the press. The US war machine, and the capitalist system backing it up, cannot man every possession around the world with the same unlimited strength as in the past. It must make adjustments to the present economic crisis to meet new challenges. And the main challenge to US imperialism is coming from the Soviet Union and the focus of US concern is no longer Asia, but now Europe.

Originally, Korea was one country. Following the end of World War II the US occupied the southern half and set up a puppet, dictatorial government there. Attempts by the North Koreans to unify their country led to the Korean War. American rulers agree that to allow the Koreans to unify their country would mean the loss of billions of dollars in US investments and future profits. Their problem is one of balancing the importance of Korea with that of Europe.

The next incident came two weeks later when Lt. General Don Starry spoke at the graduation ceremonies of the Frankfort American High School, in West Germany. Starry was the commander of the US 5th Corps and a rising figure in the army hierarchy before he was called to the White House. He had been nominated for a fourth star and was about to take command of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

In his speech, Starry lashed out at the so-called liberal press and referred to Watergate saying "The liberal press are not interested in the truth, only in the 5% or so of the news that deviates from the norm. Presumably they would be willing to muckrake around every public administration just to see it fall, without concern for the consequences to the country." The consequences he is referring to is the distrust most Americans have for politicians, Congress and government institutions in general. In his bourgeois brain it's much better to lie about or cover-up such "untruths" as Watergate or the south Korean bribes in Washington DC or the Congressional sex scandals or the secret bombings during the Vietnam war.

And he got down to the nitty-gritty by telling his young audience "there will probably be war in your lifetime." And that "Conflict of some kind is a natural state of man."

"In your lifetime the Soviets will fight the Chinese, probably in a major war. Difficult as it may be to see the United States becoming involved in such a war, it is likely we would do so once it became apparent that one or the other of the antagonists was about to win and gain absolute control over the bulk of the Eurasian land mass."

These blunt, artless statements would embarrass any administration. War is the "natural state of man" today only because the two superpowers, the US and the Soviet Union, while trying to maintain their respective capitalist empires are presently at each other's throat, and preparing for war to expand at the other's expense.

A war between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China is possible. The USSR would love to turn China into a satellite colony as it has done to several eastern European countries. If this war occurred the US would probably get involved, not to defend China's people or territory, but to follow the same strategy it had during World War I and II. And that was to enter such a war late, after other countries have weakened themselves, in order to insure itself the world's number one power after the war.

It was, of course, too much for Carter to have a high ranking general state so openly and so unabashedly, that young people can proudly expect to be future cannon fodder (as "difficult as it may" seem). The ruling class needs to give lofty and glorious reasons for slaughtering our youth on the battlefield--like the "securing of liberty and democratic freedoms" they were telling us to die for in Vietnam.

But Carter realizes that despite all these two generals are really "good old boys" anyway, and that he would have future use for them. In transferring Singlaub, Carter made it clear that he wasn't demoting him but just giving him a "lateral" reassignment to a new post with "equivalent degree of responsibility and stature." As for Starry? Carter had a serious thirty minute discussion with him as he stopped by the White House on his way to his new duty station.■

Solidarity Statement

Pan Africanist Congess of Azania

VVAW members present fatigues to PAC speaker.

The struggle of the Azanian people and, indeed, the Southern African liberation forces as a whole is massively supported by the anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist, anti-superpower revolutionary forces in the US. To show their solidarity with the struggling masses of Azanian people the Vietnam Veterans Against the War donated their fatigues to the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania--a liberation movement fighting for the complete overthrow of the Apartheid system and the establishment of a socialist Azania.

We hail the undying support of the VVAW for the peoples of Azania.

PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA

On the 28th of May, African Liberation Day was commemorated by thousands and thousands of revolutionary forces all over the United States. In Washington DC the Revolutionary Student Brigade, together with the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, staged a massive march of thousands of revolutionary forces to the gate of the White House in solidarity with the forces of liberation in southern Africa, as well as paying tribute to African Liberation Day which was founded by the Organization of African Unity.

In delivering their solidarity speeches, the speakers strongly condemned the role of the two superpowers and the multi-national corporations that have investments in Azania and pledged their support to the end, for the liberation movement fighting against domination and exploitation of the masses of southern Africa and in Azania.

PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA

200 Rally in Demanding "Free the Pendleton 14!"

VVAW speaker at rally to support the Pendleton 14.

As part of VVAW's continuing support for the Pendleton 14, Chapters of the organization from San Diego and Los Angeles joined with other supporters in a demonstration to Free the Pendleton 14.

Back in November, 14 Black Marines at the Camp Pendleton Marine Base had enough of the KKK scum operating freely on the base and decided to take them on. Although they mistakenly went into the room next to the KKK meeting, their determination to fight against the KKK and the racism in the Marine Corps earned them the support of people from around the country.

During the demonstration of some 200 people, a VVAW speaker made clear why we are supporters of the struggle of the Pendleton 14: "It's very important to continue to fight for the freedom of the Pendleton 14; this demonstration is a definite step forward in building this fight. We cannot allow the brass and their masters the freedom to attack these men and rip them off. Every time there is an attack on us, we're gonna organize to fight back.

"But we can't fight with our head down, we've got to learn more and more about the nature of our enemy and how to fight. So our tasks are in fighting to free these men, we've got to make it harder and harder for this kind of crap to go down, we've got to struggle for these GIs to understand where these divide and rule tactics come from, and we've got to learn who to rely on while we're building this fight."■

Interview
"I THOUGHT IT WAS MY GI BILL, NOT THEIRS"

All over the United States, individual veterans, in thousands of individual ways, are getting screwed over by the V. A. Whether because of inefficiency, red tape, or one of their hundreds of nit-picking regulations, the V. A. can always come up with an excuse, almost always one which tries to shift the blame to the vet involved. The following interview is with a Vietnam vet from Chicago where the VVAW chapter is planning to help him win the GI Bill payments that he needs.

The Veteran: Tony, give us a little of your military background, please.

Tony: I entered the service at 17 right out of high school--I went into the Marines in 1969. Of my two and a half years in, I spent 1 year, 4 months and 28 days in Vietnam with company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, and then with M Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines around Da Nang. I got 2 Purple Hearts, Combat Action Medal, the Cross of Gallantry.

The Veteran: When did you start school?

Tony: After my service in Vietnam I got an honorable discharge which I thought included the GI Bill. I started school right after I got out--in November, 1971--and in 19 months completed a trade school course in radio and TV repair/electronics. In September of 1975 I started a course in TV and radio broadcasting at one of the Chicago City Colleges, first in a certificate program (which requires 16 hours of courses) and later in a 2-year degree program (62 hours).

The Veteran: You were getting the GI Bill?

Tony: Up until this last spring. Back in December the VA regional office called me in for "counselling." What they were trying to do was choose my field of work for me. They said there weren't any jobs in broadcasting--that I'd be wasting my time. Then, about in the middle of the semester, they told me I wouldn't get any GI Bill for that semester. Because I couldn't afford to buy them, I had to go to school all last semester without my books.

The Veteran: You started the semester thinking you would get the GI Bill?

Tony: If I'd known I wouldn't get paid, I wouldn't have gone. I went in when they called me for counselling; now they say I was supposed to go in for more counselling, but I wasn't ever notified about that. They say now that if I go into the program they want me to take, they'll reinstate my benefits. I thought it was my GI Bill, not theirs.■

VA SURVEY DISCOVERS "VETS DISTRUST VA"

Recently a couple of surveys were conducted about VA hospitals and its healthcare. In Washington DC 52% of Vietnam-era veterans were dissatisfied with the VA while in Cleveland 65% of the vets interviewed had negative reactions. A professor at Cleveland State University said, "Many Vietnam veterans viewed it (the VA) as another government authority like the one that got them into the war."

In a VA conducted survey they found that of the inpatient veterans most believed that they were getting the best medical care possible although only 35% thought they were getting sufficient information on their conditions. But 85% of the vets interviewed thought the doctors were genuinely concerned and were competent and thorough.

This apparent contradiction is because the doctor-patient ratio is the worst of any hospital systems. The doctors, while they are concerned with the patients are unable to attend to them adequately. As far as a majority of the patients thinking they are getting the best medical care possible they're probably right, because people who go to the VA can't afford the incredibly high cost of private healthcare.

In Congressional testimony the chief surgeon of the Bronx Veterans Administration hospital said that morale among VA doctors was so bad because of low salaries. He called the VA "a halfway home for doctors approaching retirement." Doctors at the VA make between $16-20,000 less than active duty medical officers.

So what kind of solution does a Congressional commission come up with? According to the National Academy of Sciences, the VA hospitals should be done away with and the services provided by the VA should be swallowed up by local hospitals. As one concrete reason they cite that the VA has 27,000 long-term beds with 44,000 patients in need of them. They also say that this number will triple in 20 years. It's no wonder the doctors can't spend enough time with the patients.

Doing away with the VA hospitals is no answer to our problems. City hospitals face the same neglect and they are victims of cutbacks too. In Philadelphia the only city hospital is being closed down. In other cities services are slashed to ribbons. If they try to cut out the VA hospitals they'll have some fight on their hands.

The ruling class in this country can come up with all the surveys they want, but the naked truth is that there's no profits in healthcare, so when conditions worsen the only solution they ever come up with is to pass the buck off on someone else.

One way they can improve healthcare is to cut out the goddamn millions of dollars they spend on surveys to tell veterans what they already know--that the VA medical system is critically ill.■

LETTERS TO VVAW

THE VETERAN Welcomes letters, comments and criticisms. Also, send poetry, photos, drawings or stories.

Fellow Veterans,

Enclosed is a letter that proves we were fighting a Rich Man's war--in every war but the Revolution of 1776.

President Carter is screaming about human rights: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Virtually every nation on earth subscribes to that straightforward principle, the United Nations pledge of all nations on earth.

There will always be the need for us veterans to be the guardians of the poor and oppressed comrades against things like what happened in the Watts section of Los Angeles to our sister in need of our help (see attached article).

The rich use any method to suppress our people. Our war is to defend the rights of our poor against the Rich!

I am in prison and can't do anything at this time to aid our cause! But my spirit goes with you all.

Lovelady, Texas

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed please find a $2 money order, all I can afford as I am on an old age pension. Wish I could send $2 million as I believe you are doing a good job and if I was not 80 years of age and laid up with arthritis I would be out helping you. I like your paper as it talks the truth and hope you will continue to send me a copy every month, so banish all Gods from the skies and all capitalists from the earth.

Right On to Victory

Los Angeles, California

PS. I used to work on the railroad in Chicago for 20 years as a car inspector.

Dear VVAW:

When I was in Chicago a few weeks ago, a pamphlet was given to me reading, "Vets say No to Rich Man's Wars."

I am totally in agreement with this movement, and would like to receive more information concerning it, also perhaps I can make a small donation too.

Fort Wayne, Indiana

PS. I am 73 years old, and have always thought wars were for the benefit of the rich. Why in World War II, we were shipping scrap to Japan just 3 weeks before we entered into the war, only to have this scrap shot back at our boys. Wars are nothing but for commerical purposes, and to make the rich get richer, on blood money.

City sells home over $173.40 bill

Willia V. Moore stands outside her home in Los Angeles' Watts section holding her dog and a check for $173.40. Moore failed to pay a streetlight assessment and the city, in effect, sold her $30,000 house for $173.40. She now faces eviction. The check Moore is holding was returned to her by the city, which said it received her check after the home was sold.

Stops Krugerrand Give-away

RADIO ROCKS WITH PROTEST

Pickets hand out leaflets in front of WLS in Chicago while 9 people seized the studio's broadcast booth.

Members of VVAW, Youth In Action and the African Liberation Support Committee stormed into the WLS-AM radio broadcasting studio demanding that they stop their Kruggerand Give-away contest.

The Kruggerand is a gold coin sold in this country with the profits going directly to the government in South Africa that practices the system of Apartheid--racism and exploitation against Black people.

The 9 people brought WLS to its knees. Broadcasting was stopped while we were in the studio. At the same time thousands of leaflets were handed out in front of their building. The WLS bigshots were forced to withdraw their contest the next day because of our action.

Many of the employees at WLS, one of the largest stations in the country, agreed with us. One DJ said on the radio that he was going to tell his audience about all the excitement at the studio that day. Five minutes later, he said, "The bosses at the station just took away my freedom of speech."

The clues to the contest got real easy after the takeover and finally someone guessed where the coins were hidden. With that the contest was stopped; the second round of giveaway coins was cancelled. It was a great victory for us and for the people of South Africa and part of an overall nationwide campaign to STOP THE KRUGGERAND--and throw it out of the country.■

EDITORIAL

Response to RED-BAITING

Recently a small sect, The Communist Party (ML) saw fit to attack VVAW. In their newspaper The Call they pointed to an error in the last issue of THE VETERAN on Zaire. In talking about the invasion by Cuban and Katangan mercenaries, we wrongly stated that "the people of Zaire don't gain a whole lot from this skirmish." This article goes on to state that it is vital for the people of Zaire to defeat the invaders and this is the thrust of the article and of VVAW's position. The Call, on the other hand, uses this error to say that VVAW went on to call for all sides to lay down their arms. This is utter nonsense and The Call knows it.

What they did was to use this to red-bait VVAW saying it's "controlled" by communists. The Call went on to claim that the article, in fact, was written by the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP). If the CP(ML) wishes to attack the RCP, they can. We are sure that the RCP can handle themselves. Our practice with the RCP in such recent campaigns against the Klan and the Nazis convinces us of that. The Call can criticize us for our errors but to distort and red-bait is quite another question.

Their slanders remind us of the anti-communist classes we were given in basic training or tirades from a certain Georgia Congressman who belongs to the John Birch Society.

VVAW is a veterans' organization with 10 years of proud struggle under our belt. Many people belong, including communists, but we are neither a ventriloquist's dummy nor a puppet on a string.

An attack from a sect which has done little in the past year except stand on the sidelines of struggles claiming to lead them would not normally be answered by us. But since these people give thousands of their papers away along marches, rallies and struggles we have been involved in we felt it appropriate to answer this trash.

For a group calling itself the "Communist Party" (ML) to engage in the same game as the John Birch Society is a lesson for us--calling oneself a bird doesn't mean one can fly.■

VVAW Wants You!

JOIN NOW!

How many times have you said, "Gee, I wish there was some way to fight city hall." Probably a thousand times; everytime you run against some bureaucratic red tape at the VA, or the late checks, or the notice in the mail saying, "Sorry pal, but your disability is being cut."

Well, there is something you can do. You can join VVAW and become part of an organization that stands up for veterans, and stands up for the great majority of the people who get screwed by the system we live under.

We don't see VVAW as the kind of organization that goes around begging for crumbs either. We don't have faith in the government that sends us off to fight and die and then throws us out on the street to fight to live.

And VVAW joins other organizations in this fight, because not just vets get screwed --not by a long shot. Workers fight everyday on the job. Unemployed get pushed down. Hospitals shut and schools deteriorate. The ruling class would like nothing better than for people to sit back and accept things the way they are. But we can't do that because it's a life and death struggle to survive.

Over the years, VVAW has stood fast in fighting against rich man's wars and fighting for decent benefits for veterans. We see that a powerful veterans organization that stands with the working people, and not with the politicians and bankers like the VFW and the American Legion do, is the answer to some of our problems.

Like we always say, "When one person fights alone, he can get lost in the shuffle. When 100 or 1000 stand together we can win victories."

FUNDS NEEDED

SUPPORT VVAW

It takes money to run an organization. Printing costs, mailings, telephone bills, etc, all mount up and VVAW doesn't have a Santa Claus sitting in the chimney waiting to fill our stockings with the green. We rely on contributions from our friends and supporters and we rely on our local chapters to pay for the materials we need to build our struggle.

Right now, we are embarking on a national fundraising drive to help pay off our debts and more importantly to help print a series of pamphlets dealing with such topics as the move towards world war, bad discharges and amnesty, and a history of the veteran's movement from Shays Rebellion to the present.

If every reader of this paper sent in at least a dollar we would be well on our way to realize our plans. For those who send in $5 or $10 we would send you a subscription to THE VETERAN. $15 or more would include a subscription and a copy of Winning Hearts And Minds --a collection of poems written by Vietnam veterans. We would also like to build up our sustainers list. $5 or more each month would give you a sub, WHAM, and any pamphlets that we print.

VVAW IS A TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION. We would gladly accept donations from you that you could write off on next year's income tax.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

____ ONE YEAR, $5 ____ INSTITUTIONS, $15

SUSTAINERS ____ I would like to become part of the monthly sustainer program. I will contribute $_____ a month. This includes a subscription to the VETERAN.

CONTRIBUTIONS __ I would like to contribute $_____ to building VVAW and the VETERAN.

Contributions to VVAW are Recognized by the IRS as TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!

Make checks payable to Vietnam Veterans Against the War
Box 20184, Chicago, ILL 60620

VVAW A

10 PROUD YE

During the Inauguration of Nixon on January 20, 1973, VVAW led a march of 5000 people in Washington to demand an end to the war in Indochina.

VVAW just celebrated its 10th anniversary. On June 1, 1967 the first organizational meeting was held in New York City, consisting of vets from that area. Prior to that several veterans had met at an anti-war demonstration and realized that they had a common bond, being in Vietnam and seeing that they were now opposed to it. With these humble beginnings VVAW became one of the most powerful forces in the anti-war movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In its first years VVAW mainly was an organization of veterans who spoke at rallies, or forums and educationals. Because of its very nature, an organization of veterans, people listened and listened well. Veterans began to hear about it and many joined. But it wasn't until 1970 that the organization made its first big leap, by conducting what was to become the first of many mock-search and destroy missions through cities and towns across the country. This march was called Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal) and began in Morristown, New Jersey and ended with a rally in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Over 100 vets from the Northeast marched simulating what it was like in Vietnam.

Shortly after this a nationwide investigation was called where veterans from every service and every area in Vietnam could talk about their actual combat experiences in order to show that war crimes, the type Calley was convicted of, were not isolated incidents, but were rather standard operating procedures, encouraged by the US military, and in fact, ordered by the Brass to win the war in Vietnam for the US ruling class.

This investigation was called Winter Soldier Investigation and was held in Detroit, Michigan in early 1971. Over 150 vets from all across the country testified about what they

As part of the VVAW national campaign to Extend and Expand the GI Bill, the Detroit chapter stages a picket line in front of the Detroit Veterans Administration office.

A 1977 dem
VVAW chap
VVAW's fig

ANNIVERSARY
EARS OF STRUGGLE

Veteran throws back his Silver Star during Operation Dewey Canyon III in April, 1971.

Fifteen VVAW members seize the Statue of Liberty in December, 1972, to protest the bombing of Haiphong Harbor; in June, 1976, we did it again to protest GI Bill cutoffs.

had seen and done. Even though the media blacked out this important exposure of US military strategy in Indochina, it provided enough impact on the vets involved to arm them to go back to their local areas and lay the basis for building an actual nationwide organization.

Officially VVAW became a national organization in mid-February of 1971 at a meeting in New York City with representatives coming from as far away as California and Washington State.

VVAW's first national demonstration was one of the results of that meeting. It was decided that a demonstration of Vietnam veterans at a week long encampment in Washington DC would break the media silence and would focus the anger felt by the vets at the state power of the ruling class--the Federal government.

Operation Dewey Canyon III was named to bring up the fact that DCI was a secret invasion by the US military into Laos, up to then a neutral country in Southeast Asia. DCIII was highlighted by over 1,000 veterans throwing away their war medals at the Capitol steps in anger over the continuing war. This entire five day demonstration was perhaps the single most powerful anti-war demonstration in the US, firmly establishing VVAW as one of the leading forces in the anti-war movement. It gained for the struggle against the war an invaluable force--veterans who served in the war and who had turned against it because of their direct experiences.

All during the next few years, VVAW was active in going against the ruling class and winning victories in the process. In December of 1972 fifteen VVAW members seized and held the Statue of Liberty during the bombing raids of Haiphong Harbor. This action, was splashed across the papers all over the world. In France, activists torched a replica of the statue on the Seine River in Paris in solidarity.

When the Vietnamese, the Cambodians and the Laotians won their war for freedom it was a great victory for us too.

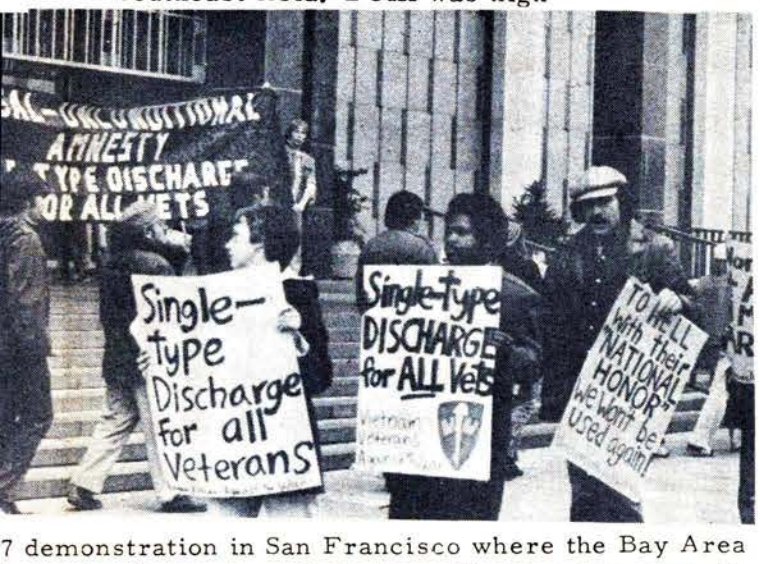
In addition to VVAW's anti-war work, it has always been an organization that has linked up its work with the struggle of the great majority of people who are fighting back against oppression. As early as 1971, VVAW supported the Black people of Cairo, Illinois who had organized a boycott of the white-owned stores in their fight against national oppression. VVAW organized convoys of food and clothing to Cairo to support their boycott.

From 1972 to 1975 VVAW waged a nationwide campaign to free Gary Lawton, a Black man falsely accused of murder in Southern California. After years of struggle waged by people across the country, with support from places as far away as Japan, Gary Lawton was freed. VVAW defended its own members who were constantly framed by the Federal police agencies with outrageous charges. The most famous of these was the case of the Gainesville Eight; members of VVAW accused of planning to blow up bridges in Miami during the Republican National Convention there in 1972. A year long campaign to free them culminated in the summer of 1973 when all these ridiculous charges were beaten.

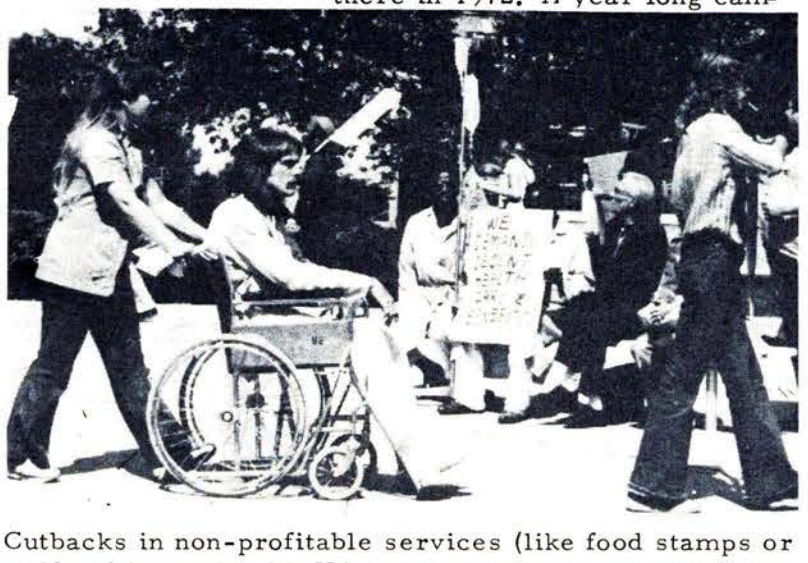
More recently, VVAW joined with other organizations in building a demonstration in Philadelphia on the country's 200th birthday. This demonstration was the first time in decades that workers from different industries, from steel mills to auto plants and from the coal mines to the docks joined together in a powerful fist telling the ruling class that on their birthday; 200 years of their rule, that "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years, Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!"--the main slogan of the demonstration. VVAW proudly joined their ranks, marching in cadence to the tune of the working class, waging the Battle of the Bicentennial and firmly choosing sides in the fight against all oppression.

And through all the years, VVAW has seen that the real strength of the organization lies in the fact that as veterans we have common experiences with the system that sent us off to fight and die in Indochina. VVAW has been waging fights against cuts in veterans benefits, against rotten hospital conditions, against bad discharges given for veteran's resistance to the war or to the repression of the military, for universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters and has waged a major campaign around extending and expanding the GI Bill.

VVAW has 10 proud years of struggle behind it. During this time there have been ups and downs, but through it all VVAW has become wiser and more able to fight against the enemy that oppresses the vast majority of people. As a continuing major part of our work we see the need to fight for veterans' benefits, and to fight against any future wars waged by the ruling class to save it's system. We won't fight anymore Vietnam-type wars and we won't fight for the ruling class in another world war with the Soviet Union as they battle it out for who gets control of the world's markets. A major slogan of VVAW is "Fight the Rich, Not Their Wars!" and we mean every word of it.■



7 demonstration in San Francisco where the Bay Area V chapter demands a single-type discharge as part of V's fight for universal, unconditional amnesty.



Cutbacks in non-profitable services (like food stamps or welfare) have also hit VA hospitals which weren't much good to start with; here VVAW is joined by VA patients.

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Second UWOC Conference

UNEMPLOYED PLAN NATIONWIDE BATTLE

On June 25-26, 175 members and elected delegates of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) gathered in Detroit, Michigan to participate in the 2nd National UWOC meeting. In the year since the first UWOC national meeting, UWOC has been in the forefront of the fight against the employing class' attempts to shift the burden for their crisis onto workers' backs and to use the unemployed as a force to drive down the wages and working conditions of the whole working class. The banners ringing the site of the conference proclaimed the stand and determination of the UWOC chapters from over 30 cities at the meeting: "Jobs or Income!", "We Won't Scab and We Won't Starve!", "Employed-Unemployed--Same Crisis, Same Fight!"

But the two banners strung across the stage of the conference, serving as the backdrop for two days of spirited and serious discussion, "Unity and Action Means Strength and Power!", "Stand Up! Get Organized! Fight Back!" spoke to the immediate purpose of the meeting--to sum up the experiences and advances of the past year, to figure out the present situation and a battle plan for the coming months, and to unite, get better organized and build UWOC as a real force against the attacks coming down on workers, unemployed and employed alike.

As a member from Connecticut pointed out, the size of the meeting itself reflected the advances made in the last year, with an over threefold increase in the number of UWOC members participating in the meeting itself, representing thousands more who are becoming involved in struggle and beginning to look to UWOC for leadership. The three month campaign against Carter's unemployment bill--which limited unemployment benefits to 52 weeks under any circumstances (39 weeks after October 31) and contains the slave labor provision, forcing those on federal extensions to accept any job which pays more than minimum wage or more than 120% of their benefits--brought many new members into UWOC, veteran workers and young workers alike of all nationalities. In this period also, several new chapters of UWOC have been built, including the Washington, DC chapter formed after the demonstration of 1000 in front of the White House on March 5th.

But while the size and strength of UWOC have grown, the attacks on benefits, union busting and attempts to drive the unemployed into slave wage jobs have also stepped up, demanding even stronger organization. As discussion brought out, since the passage of Carter's unemployment bill, attacks on the unemployed have been on the rise, shifting at the same time to the state and local levels. Chapter after chapter reported state bills limiting the conditions for eligibility for benefits and cutting the maximum time benefits can be collected.

Everywhere, harassment at unemployment offices, delays in checks and other attacks have been coming down. What became clear from this discussion and experiences from around the country was that although these attacks were now occurring mostly on a state by state level, they were all part of a systematic attempt to dismantle the unemployment insurance system and to institute slave wage, union busting jobs programs.

Although fighting every particular attack as it comes down on a state of local level will be the main thrust of the UWOC chapters' work in months to come, these fights will be part of a systematic national campaign to beat back the ruling class' attack. This campaign launched at the conference, will build public opinion and struggle against the government's policy toward the unemployed, under the slogans "Stop the Attacks on the Unemployment System!" and "Union Jobs at Union Wages!"

Three main demands are being put forward, including a national petition; "No more cuts in benefits--Unemployment benefits to meet our cost of living for all periods of unemployment," "Down with Carter's slave labor law and forcing us into slave wage jobs!" and "All government job programs must be union jobs at union pay."

As vets we too see the need of struggling against this "phoney" jobs program being pushed by Carter. Vets, facing unemployment above the national average, are slated for 35% of the jobs under Carter's program, a program to wring cheap labor out of working people to pile up the profits for the rich.

We in VVAW unite with vets and workers around the country in taking up the UWOC campaign. After using us in their wars and tossing us out like the morning trash, the rich and their office boys are fooling themselves if they think vets will stand idly by if they try to run us through the mill again.

As part of this campaign regional demonstrations are being planned for the end of October when the next 13 week cut is due, directed at the federal government in unity with a demonstration for the same day in Washington, DC. In January, at the time of Carter's State of the Union address, UWOC plans to draw all its forces together for a national demonstration in DC, putting forward its programs for unemployment and demanding to meet with Carter and the Congress.

The conference was a great success in struggling for and uniting around a fighting program for the unemployed. Chapter members left with a firm determination to return to their local areas and build this fight as broadly as possible.■

San Diego

VVAW FIGHTS, VET WINS BENEFIT

Taking on the state bureaucracy, the San Diego chapter of VVAW scored a victory in helping a Korean War vet get his benefits. In June John Hagus decided to demand an appeal from the California Department of Rehabilitation; although as a disabled vet in rehabilitation, he should have had his school supplies paid for, the state told him he would have to submit vouchers from his teachers accounting for everything he needed, down to pencil leads. Even with this, he was told, he would probably get nothing more than busfare.

Having fought the VA once already to get his disability payment raised from 10% to 40%, John knew he would get nothing from the state agency without a fight. So he asked VVAW to back up his appeal to the hearing board.

At the appeal board meeting, John was kept waiting for half an hour as board members arrived conveniently late. But they started apologizing when they saw that he was not alone. VVAW members displayed picket signs with the demands, "No More Delays--It's Time To Pay," "Government Appeal--Dirty Deal," and "Benefits Now! Cut the Crap! Give John His Rehab Money." After putting the board on notice that they couldn't play their games any more, VVAW went outside and marched through the shopping center where the board held its meeting.

Passersby stopped to encourage VVAW to keep on at it; one young guy decided to scrap his enlistment plans after hearing what the rich man does with used GI's. Inside the hearing room, where chanting and picketting could be both seen and heard, John read a statement telling the board that, as representatives of the rich who had put John and millions like him through hell, that we're not going to take it anymore, that every penny they try to steal from us now will one day cost them more than they ever dreamed.

After an hour and a half, the board decided they didn't want to sweat through any more and told John that they couldn't deny what he was saying. They promised to make sure he got whatever he needed for school. As one San Diego VVAW member said, "This was one time we made the fat cats retreat and we know now that when we take them on on our terms, we can win."■

STUDENTS ARRESTED KENT STATE

Lyn Stoval, a former national guardsman at Kent when the students were shot, stands with the students now in opposition to the administration at the university.

On July 13 nearly 200 chanting students and supporters at Kent State University were arrested and dragged away from the site of a proposed gymnasium at the school. The students, who had lived in a tent city on the site since May 12th, are demanding the gym be built elsewhere and not on the ground where Ohio National Guardsmen gunned down Kent State students on May 4th, 1970, killing four and wounding 9 others.

The attack on the students at Kent occurred during massive protests following the U. S. invasion of Cambodia during the Indochina War. Later the courts found all those responsible for this outrage "innocent" but brought charges against 23 students and faculty members at Kent State.

This further outrage and the continual attempts by the school administrators to cover up and make the struggle that occurred a thing of the past has been a rallying point for Kent State and other students for the past seven years.

Of the 200 arrested, among the first were the parents of Sandy Scheuer, one of the murdered students, and the parents of Al Canfora, one of those wounded in 1970. As the police dragged away the demonstrators, 1,000 people held a rally to protest the arrests, and a picket line was set up at the Portage County courthouse, scene of legal proceedings around the case.

This was not the end of the struggle at Kent State. On July 15th more demonstrators were arrested including Lyn Stoval, a former Ohio National Guardsman who was present on the day of the shootings. The May 4th Coalition has called for further actions including a national demonstration on July 22nd.

The fight to preserve the area where the students were shot down is a real blow to those who hope that the killings would undercut the student movement. The students, armed with the knowledge that it's right to rebel and to resist a rich man's war, are a powerful weapon for other students and supporters across the country in the fight against the futile attempts to cover-up and hide the events and lessons we all learned from Kent State.■

EX-VA HEAD ADMITS FRAUD

James S. Gleason, Jr. was convicted of bank fraud in Chicago on June 22. Gleason isn't just any crook. He's a former Commander of the American Legion, former Director of the Veterans Administration under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, former Chairman of the Mercantile National Bank of Chicago and a Major General in the US Army Reserve.

Gleason admitted to stealing almost $600,000 while he was Chairman at Mercantile, from November of 1974 to February of 1975.

Bank fraud and thievery among the ruling class is nothing new. Gleason joins a long list of crooks from Spiro Agnew to Al Capone--rats who prey on the lives of decent working people. But that Gleason has a long association with the military and service in the Legion and as head of the VA makes him get singled out. How deep his crimes really go is still under investigation, but it would come as no surprise that while he was head of the VA that he stole money meant for veterans by "arranging loans and payments to himself through unknown channels."

And the gall of the VA for always accusing veterans of stealing money from them when they are the real thieves, like this Gleason admits to.

The American Legion has spawned some of the most deceitful men around. Standing as a reactionary thorn in the sides of decent men and women in this country, the Legion leadership backs everything backward, while posing as the friend of millions of veterans in the US. That Gleason is their former commander comes as no surprise.

Gleason and his ilk should be locked up for a long time, where they'd probably compare notes on how they robbed the vast majority of the American people. Eventually they will get their just desserts, but not in the cushy prisons the ruling class reserves for itself.■

(continued from page 16)

BOOKS ON WAR

paign ribbons to President Nixon.... I thought, naively, that such a personal, individual act would have more effect than mass marches.... (But) my grand gesture of personal protest had been futile, as futile as the war itself."

"This book ought not be regarded as a protest," Caputo writes; "Protest arises from a belief that one can change things or influence events. I am not egotistical enough to believe I can. Besides, it no longer seems necessary to register an objection to the war, because the war is over.... (The book) might, perhaps prevent the next generation from being crucified in the next war. But I don't think so."

Though he refuses to draw the conclusion, Caputo's book contradicts his own sense of futility. The war in Indochina ended not because the corporate powers and political bigwigs who sent us off to fight wanted the war to end, but because they had to end it: the NLF and the North Vietnamese, knowing that it is not only possible but necessary to "influence events," won the war, and millions of Americans in the streets, as well as thousands of GIs resisting the war inside the military, helped force the U. S. government to get out of Indochina.

There will be more books, more movies about Vietnam as this country's rulers, through whatever vehicle they can, try to put out their views of what the war meant. Too many people know enough about the war for them to try to get over with glorifying the U. S. role in Indochina. Instead, they will try to distort and pervert the lessons, hoping to quench the sparks which resistance to that war ignited. But the fires of struggle continue to burn.■

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

(This review was written by a member of the VVAW National Office who served as an infantry captain in Vietnam & as Information Officer for the 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cav at Quon Loi, Lai Khe, and Song Be, Vietnam.)

PEOPLE UNITE TO HIT NAZIS & KKK

The Nazis, Ku Klux Klan and other assorted scum have been getting a lot of news coverage lately. Television, radio and the newspapers have covered their every move. They have interviewed these would-be fuhrers, allowed them to advertise their rallies and spread their lies of hate. On the weekend of July 4th, reactionaries of all stripes decided to hold marches and rallies. In Plains, Georgia, the KKK planned a "good old-fashioned cross-burning." In Columbus, Ohio, the Klan planned to show their sheet-covered faces as part of a northern organizing drive. In Chicago, the Nazis announced that they planned to march through a predominantly Jewish suburb, a town which is home to 7,000 survivors of Nazi concentration camps.

The Klan emerged after the Civil War as an organization to try to keep Black people down, trying to drive them back into slavery. For a hundred years and more the Klan has done the bidding of the rich, shooting and lynching Black people, busting up unions and burning people out of their homes. Politically they blame all of the problems in society--which are real problems--on the Blacks, the Jews or the Catholics who become their targets while the rich like F. Clement Stone get off free.

The Nazis, like the Klan, are out to divide people along national and ethnic lines. Taking their clue from Hitler, these scum put forward that our salvation lies in gassing "six million more" Jews. They say the problems in society are caused by the Jews who control everything and the Blacks who are their puppets. The Nazis want to build a society where the rich bosses and the workers get along fine because they are of the same race; it's right, they say, to have the Fords or DuPonts live like kings while working people live like slaves.

So why do these scum get so much media coverage? They certainly don't have millions of members, they don't represent the huge majority of the American people in their hopes or dreams; it certainly isn't because they have a good press agent. But when they come crawling out of their holes, and the Supreme Court says they can march, then TV gives them nationwide interviews and the ACLU rushes to their defense. The KKK and the Nazis do serve a purpose for the rich.

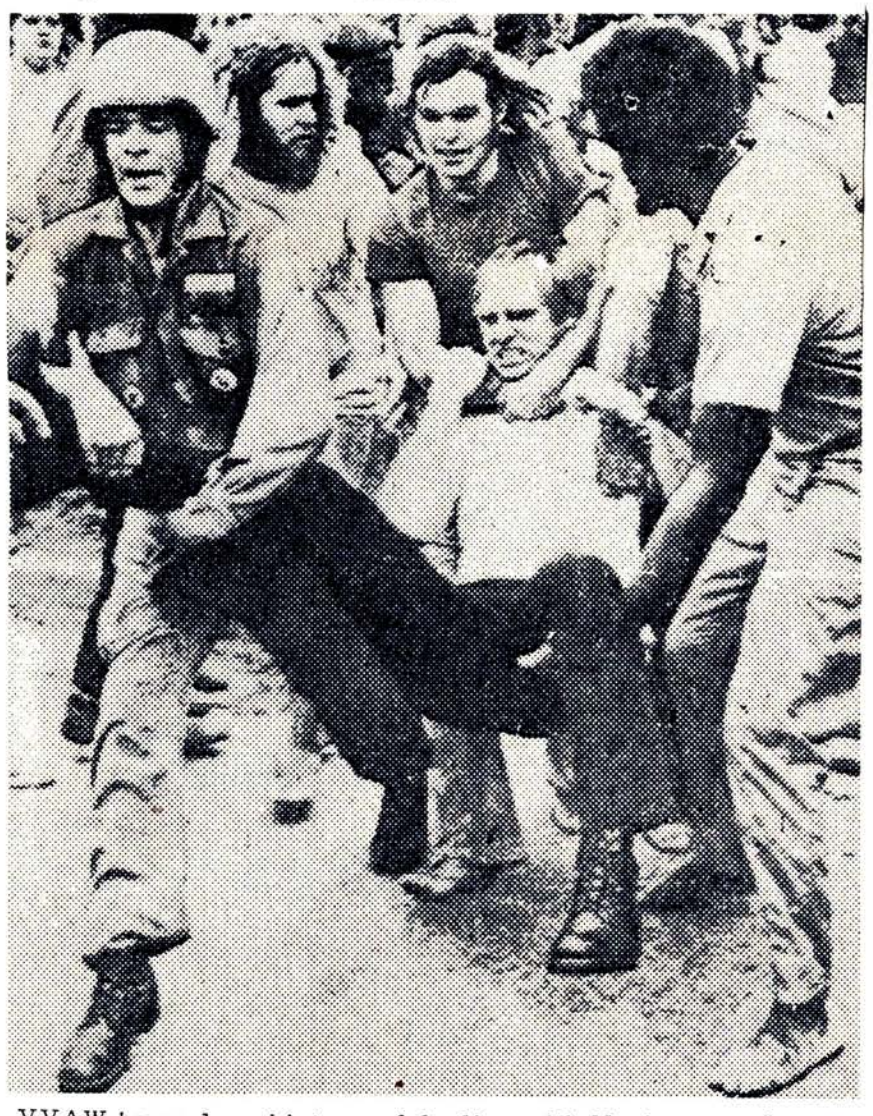
The economy--in fact the whole damn system--is in crisis: unemployment is up, wages are down, cities are falling apart. Scum like the Nazis and Klan offer a reason why. It's all the Blacks' fault; they are controlled by the Jews who own everything; the Latins, the Catholics, the communists, the trade unions are all contributing to the crisis, and all of them have to be dealt with. The rich get off the hook, and that's why the rich, through their agencies like TV, push them. The problem, according to these dogs, isn't that the system is based on profits and human needs be damned.

To launch organizing campaigns, Nazis and the Klan planned to hold attention-getting rallies and marches. But they were in for a surprize. People were not about to let them goose-step unopposed.

In Plains, Georgia, a 30-year old Marine Vietnam vet and machinist could not take the racist ravings of the Klan and decided on direct action: he drove his car through the stage of the Imperial Wizard, bloodying up their white sheets and leaving them to burn their fiery cross over the wreckage of their rally.

In Chicago, the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization called for a coalition to "Run the Nazis Out." VVAW along with other organizations took up the call. People from across the city came together--Black, white, Jew non-Jew, to stop these brown shirts dead in their tracks. The campaign against them built, and the Nazis finally chickened out of marching. The Coalition, on the other hand, moved its march to the Nazi Headquarters. Led by a contingent of vets wearing fatigues and carrying flags saying "People of All Nationalities Unite! Run the Nazis Out!" some 200 people moved out. The only thing that saved these junior Hitlerites from joining their "Fuhrer" was a contingent of Chicago cops arrayed between the demonstration and the Nazis (all facing the demonstation with their backs to the Nazis) with busloads of cops just around the corner. Clearly, the cops were sent with the task of protecting these scum from the anger of the people.

On African Liberation Day, May 28th, six Nazis got their taste of peoples' justice. Four of them retreat to safety behind police lines; blood gushing from one's head staining his brown shirt with red.



VVAW has a long history of dealing with Nazi scum. In 1972 vets demonstrating against the Republican National Convention took some time out to demonstrate hand-to-hand combat with Nazis, bodily tossing them from park.

In Columbus, Ohio, 300 workers, youth and veterans

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Weapons and War

and the Soviet Union have to take into account the two aspects of such a war. One is actual control of the land (Europe) by the foot soldiers of one army or the other. Specific conventional weapons systems are designed for this purpose. The second type of weapons system is a strategic system, a system designed to wipe out the enemy's capacity to wage war. Such a system has the aim of wiping out the enemy's military facilities, communications network, transportation system and the factories and millions of workers in them who produce materials necessary to carry out war. Nuclear warheads could be used for both conventional and strategic weapons.

Strategic arms for the U. S. have included three parts: warheads launched from 1)land missiles 2) submarines, and 3) bombers. The Russians have relied less on submarines and hardly at all on bombers for their arsenal. At this point the destructive capability of each side is roughly equal. While they build up all these arms supplies, the two countries make a big show to prove they are for peace. They sit down for detente and Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), but all these talks serve to do is cover up war preparations. They agree to limit arms at a limit so high that it makes no difference. For instance, the limit for long-range missile firing submarines is set at 41. The Russians have less than 41 and are still building subs to reach that number. The US has that number, but is scrapping the outdated Polaris subs and replacing them with the more modern and devastating Trident while the number remains constant at 41. The effect is that there is no disarmament and war preparations go on.

The decision to scrap the B-1 bomber and build the cruise missile indicates a change in the structuring of the U. S. strategic arsenal. The present bomber, the B-52, has become less effective with the development of more modern Soviet defensive equipment. If the bomber was to continue to be used as part of the US's strategic weapons system then the B-1 would have to be built. Members of the ruling class and military circles of the US have been debating over the past year whether to go ahead and build the B-1 or rely on the cruise missile as one of the main strategic weapons. Those who favored the cruise missile won out. Part of the reason is that they feel that the cruise will accomplish the purpose--to wage war with the Soviet Union. Carter and his rich friends have nothing against spending our money for weapons of war. However, with the shaky state of the economy even more cuts would have to be made in things like vets benefits and unemployment compensation, and Jimmy Boy would have to face even more anger from the American people. Since the cheaper cruise missile was available, the B-1 was dropped.

The cruise can be launched from sea, air, or off the back of a flat-bed truck. It hugs the ground, avoids radar and can strike within 30 meters of a target 1700 miles away. What it represents is an escalation in the arms race and a greater possibility of destruction. In response to the development of the cruise missile, the Russians will have to develop one of their own or else develop a way to defend against it. Whatever happens, the destructive power of weapons to be used in World War III is still growing.

Another weapon being developed at this time is the neutron bomb. This is a new nuclear bomb which has radiation without the blast. This weapon requires a warhead one tenth the size of current nuclear warheads to have the same destructive capacity. At the target area, people would be incapacitated in five minutes and die the next day. All people 3/4 of a mile away would become incapacitated in a few hours and die in two weeks. At the same time it will leave buildings and structures intact. Its main use will be as a tactical weapon in Europe.

Neutron bombs, cruise missiles and other weapons of mass destruction are being developed in preparation for war. Caught in the middle will be the people of the world. The ruling classes of the superpowers are preparing for a devastating war that will be of no benefit to us.

When the shooting starts should we fight for and support the rulers of this country? No way! We went off to save Vietnam for freedom and democracy and found out instead that we were the enemy of the Vietnamese. We have a lot in common with the Russian soldiers who invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968 in order to save it. They were expecting the people to throw flowers at them, but instead the people threw bricks. Neither the American nor the Russian soldiers have anything in common with the class that runs our countries and starts these wars. Likewise, workers who slave in the factories in both countries and will be asked to sacrifice our lives when war starts have no reason to do so.

While the cruise missile and other strategic weapons will be sent to completely wipe out Russian factories and workers (as the Russians would do to our cities) the neutron bomb might be used against European (mainly German) industrial centers. Supposing the Russian army occupied German industrial towns in the Ruhr Basin. Neutron bombs could wipe out the Russian army (as well as all the German civilians). This would leave all the factories in place for the US capitalists. Or suppose the factories of Czechoslovakia were turning out war materials for the Soviet Union. Instead of wiping out the factories, neutron bombs can be used to wipe civilians, cut production in the short run, and still allow the capitalists to take over the factories after the war.■

Actions Hit ARMED FORCES DAY

For the past 10 years, the celebration of Armed Forces Day has been buried. The massive struggle against the Vietnam War put it to rest. But the threat of a new war is waking the dead since the rich know they must have public sentiment on their side. This year Armed Forces Day parades took place in a number of cities around the country, part of an all-out campaign in the name of "patriotism." And in several cities VVAW chapters were there to put out the truth about the rich and their wars.

The following article comes from VVAW in Chicago where Armed Forces Day returned after a 10-year absense.

A week before Armed Forces Day, the sponsoring VFW began to build for it with commando demonstrations in front of city hall, and many newspaper and radio announcements. When the rich set out to do something they try to cook up a pretty fine looking dish. The military trots out its finest--generals in tailor-made uniforms; fat VFW and American Legion post commanders in their funny little hats. Add a few congressmen and the mayor. Then fill the parade with people just like you and me: active-duty GIs from all over the Midwest; reserves and national guardsmen, young ROTC troops and highschool marching bands. Looks pretty good on the outside, but cut into it and they'll never win any prizes.

That's what VVAW demonstrated on that Saturday morning. Inside their pretty picture are the memories that vets have who fought their wars, the high unemployment figures and the worst GI Bill in history. Cut a little deeper and even those in the parade didn't want to be there--GIs said they'd rather be with us--that's where their hearts were--but they had no choice. Our banner "Fight the Rich, Not Their Wars" made it difficult for them to get over with their half-baked Armed Forces Day.■

FIGHT THE RICH · NOT THEIR WARS

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rallied to stop the Klan. Chanting "KU KLUX KLAN, SCUM OF THE LAND!" they marched up to the podium of these low lifes, and after the head of the Klan started spraying the crowd with mace, they stretched him and his followers on the ground. He later announced that "I guess this means we'll have to go underground."

Under ground is where these scum belong--back in the holes and under the rocks they crawled from. Some people, especially groups like the ACLU, said that no matter how disgusting these reactionaries are, they had the right to free speech. They talk like this "right" is something abstract from the real world.

The Klan and Nazis are not just some throwback to a bygone era. Not just a group of people who like to dress funny and dream about the "good old days," these groups are actively out there stirring up racial antagonisms, organizing everything from lynchings to beatings. They've announced they plan more in the future. We are not going to sit by and watch as they go on their terrorist way. We intend to stomp their ugly heads everytime they peak out of their holes looking for trouble, driving them back into the slime where they belong. We stand with people everywhere who are fighting them, whether the Pendleton 14 or the vet from Georgia.■

Plains GA KKK Rally Busted Up

FREE BUDDY COCHRAN !

On July 2nd, Buddy Cochran, a white tractor mechanic from Americus, Georgia, ran his car into the speaker's platform at a rally of the Ku Klux Klan being held in Plains, Ga, knocking the Imperial Wizard into the air.

In opposition to early press coverage which made Buddy out as some kind of drunken nut, Buddy Cochran in fact had a long-standing hatred for the oppression of Black people. He had spent three tours of duty with the Marines in Vietnam, fighting in the area north of Da Nang. There, he saw first hand how Black troops were more than equal when it came to dying on the battlefield. Once out of the service, however, he also saw how Blacks were treated in Americus. And while he was in the Marines, Buddy had also seen how the KKK worked at Camp Lejeune, and was afraid that the Klan violence he saw there would someday come to Americus.

After knocking the Wizard off the podium, Buddy was arrested and put in the Sumter County Jail in Americus; he is charged with 21 counts of aggravated assault and is being held under $210,000 bond. The Justice of the Peace, John Southwell, was quoted as saying, "When you get someone like this you want to put them in the electric chair," making it amply clear where the courts of the area stand regarding the hooded wonders of the KKK.

Although the Klan had been building for the rally for months, the city fathers of Plains claimed that they knew nothing about any application for a permit or that the rally was going to take place. Actually, Bill Williamson, the Imperial Lizard, had been invited to the infamous Plains Baptist Church (religious home of Pres. Carter and family) back in November in order to give advice to the people who were trying to keep Blacks out of the church. At that time he said he "would assist however possible in keeping Blacks out."

Earlier in the day on July 2nd, a group of five Blacks who had argued with a KKK turkey were quickly hustled away by local authorities. A small group of pickets at the KKK rally, carrying signs saying "Down with Hate," and "Love our Brothers," were told to leave because they didn't have a permit.

But it was not only the local Plains power structure that did nothing to disturb the Klan rally. In fact at the time that Buddy drove into the stage, none less than Miss Lillian, lovable and kindly old mother of the President, was watching from a car across the street, though she was quickly whisked away after Buddy launched his attack. And jolly old beer-drinking Billy Carter spent 10 minutes at the rally, though he had left before the Imperial Lizard took his well-deserved dive. Neither Billy nor the saintly "Miss Lillian" has yet said one word in defense of Buddy Cochran nor against the meeting of the KKK in their hometown. None of the Carters, including the President, have done one thing yet to keep the Klan out.

As usual when the media are reporting someone who attacks those who try to divert the struggle of the people, they have to try to make out Buddy Cochran as an insane nut who was totally drunk at the time of the incident. Nonsense. In fact there is newsreel footage (which was only shown once) of Buddy arguing with Klansmen earlier in the day, telling them, among other things, that their paper, The Klansman was "a pack of lies." Unlike the media picture of a sudden drunken impulse, Buddy had clearly thought out what he was going to do.

Since his arrest Buddy has said that he's "sorry that innocent people got hurt, but that seems to often be part of a just cause." A number of the injured spectators have refused to press charges, and several of them are actively supporting Buddy's action.

The Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization has taken up the case as one more example of people fighting back. On July 4th they staged a picket line at the Sumter County Jail in Buddy's support. VVAW will also be actively working in defense of our fellow veteran. A Buddy Cochran Defense Committee and a Defense Fund have already been established. The Organizing Committee has said that they will be ready to meet the Klan if they should try to return to the area, and, despite a number of threats, Buddy Cochran's wife remains strong in support of her husband's action.

To write to Buddy Cochran letters should be sent to:
Buddy Cochran
Sumter County Jail
Americus, Georgia 31709

Funds are needed to help with Buddy's defense; they can be sent to:
Buddy Cochran Defense Fund
P. O. Box 90064
East Point, Georgia 30364

Graphic drawn for VVAW by Andre, a 14 year old youth from Chicago

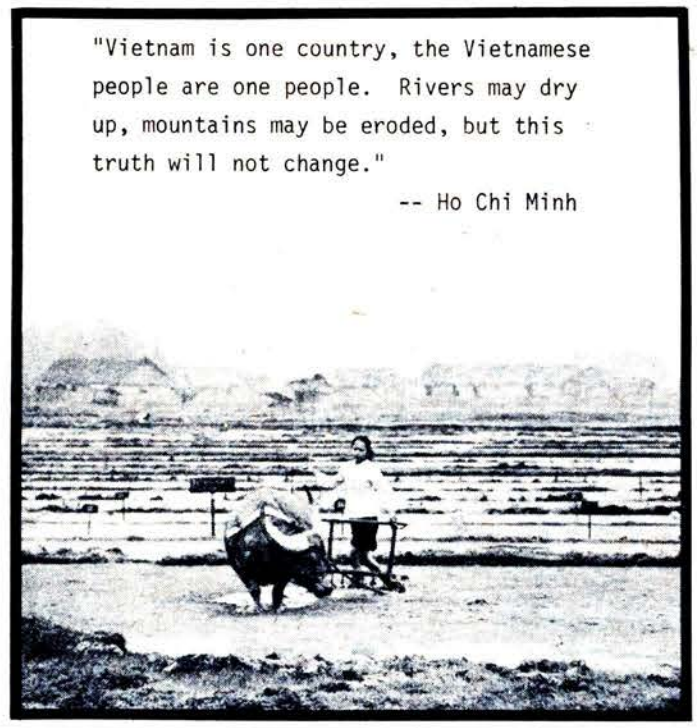
TELEGRAM from VVAW

WELCOME VIETNAM TO U.N.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War hails the entrance of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam into the United Nations. After years of struggle; fighting the forces of colonialism and imperialism, Vietnam has now formally joined the world community. That Vietnam enters the United Nations is a great victory for the Vietnamese people and for the people of the world. It is a stunning defeat for the US ruling class.

For VVAW, we have a special reason to celebrate this victory. For it was in Vietnam that we learned the true nature of US imperialism. The Vietnamese peoples' fight for freedom and their great victory gave us the inspiration to fight for our own freedom.

VVAW sends its congratulations to Vietnam and demands that the United States pay war reparations as it agreed to do.



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KOREA

not overreacting to an unwanted incident Carter served his class well.

As far as North Korea invading South Korea, this is a lot of hogwash. Korea has always been one country and the DMZ was set up by the US, fearing its loss of that area of the world. It was part of the strategy of the time to ring the Pacific with ground troops to protect US business interests.

For its part the North Koreans were correct in protecting its territory from another US incursion. According to radio reports monitored in Japan, CWO Glenn Schwanke promised not to intrude into North Korean territory again and apologized for the incident. He told reporters that he was treated well and given good medical attention--a far cry from the stories of being brainwashed fabricated by the Pueblo crew.

The North Korean government has long put forward a reasonable plan for reunification of the country, but up to now the US has sabotaged it by trying to create world opinion against the Korean government, like its provocations last year when US troops insisted on cutting down a tree on the North Korean side. But it backfired even as it did here. Even one of the mothers of the victims killed after the tree cutting said, "Why are US troops in Korea anyway?"

In a statement made during negotiations for the release of the bodies and the survivor a North Korean spokesman said, "In consideration of the fact that your side has admitted its military helicopter intruded into our area and regretted that, and regarding that appropriate measures will be taken to prevent any recurrance I declare we are ready to deliver the survivor and bodies to your side proceeding from our humanitarian stand."

While this incident is over there will be no assurance that the US will not again invade North Korean territory until all troops, including the Air Force, are withdrawn and Korea is reunited into one country.■

Continued from page 4

ALD

step in their fight for freedom was greeted with a thunderous standing ovation. He said it was an honor to be at the rally and that he was impressed with the vets who had fought for the US ruling class and who now stand in support of the Black South Africans. He compared the youth at the demonstration to the youth in Soweto, South Africa--site of the militant fights against the police and army.

After his speech six Vietnam vets from VVAW presented military fatigues to Mr. Sibeko in an emotional show of support. One vet spoke to the rally reading from a letter sent to the southern African people. It said in part, "Wearing these military uniforms, or ones like them, we veterans of the US military learned first hand about "freedom" and "aggression" Instead of fighting for freedom and stopping aggression, we found ourselves fighting for the profits of the ruling rich and trying to crush the people's struggle.... We have come to actively oppose the system that exploits and oppresses the people of the world, vowing to "fight the rich, not their wars". We are not pacifists for we know of the necessity to fight, and fight hard, for freedom. Please accept these fatigues as concrete aid for your struggle. Our hopes for your speedy victory."

This was greeted by another standing ovation with the crowd chanting, "Victory to the Southern African People!"

When the buses rolled out of Washington at the end of the rally important lessons were summed up as people spoke about the success of it. Building multi-national unity in the fight for freedom is not only important to the support we have for the struggle in southern Africa, but it is also important to continue our fight at home. With this in mind, the campaign of support for African liberation will continue as we fight day to day for our own freedom. Next year on African Liberation Day the rally should be bigger and more unified as a result of the fruits of our work all year.■

VICTORY TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PEOPLE!

Continued from page 1

Discharges, Benefits & Congress

hanging in the balance as Congress, outright servants of the rich, takes a little less time off from travelling around the world, taking bribes and making it with their secretaries, to put the screws to us again.

This attack by Congress, if successful, would effectively gut the discharge program by denying benefits to veterans who have taken the time, effort, and expense required for "discharge re-characterization."

Carter's program is far from perfect. It falls short in several areas but is still a victory for the amnesty and veterans movements which have been fighting for decent benefits and a single-grade discharge for the past 5 years. VVAW is currently encouraging vets with bad discharges to check out the Carter program (see Vets Notes on page 2). Meanwhile, as the fight for a single-type of discharge goes on, vets must now turn to meet this new threat from Congress.

The rich used us in the millions to fight their wars for profit, then ditch us when we're no longer needed. The benefits we have are lousy and we have to fight tooth and nail to keep what we have. And now they're attempting to nail shut the doors that were locked to begin with for the hundreds of thousands of veterans with bad paper discharges from the Vietnam era.

Now it's our turn. The various Congressmen and women have shown where their interests lie in initiating this attack. Others haven't committed themselves or are keeping silent. As one part of the discharge fight, VVAW will be taking our struggle to their local offices around the country as well as to their Playboy cribs in Washington.

But we aren't going with our hands out begging them to stop. We're going to demand that they vote this outrage down. Our experience from the anti-war days taught us that many of these people openly spoke against the war and told us to let them handle things. They talked and talked but didn't move until millions of people went to the streets and forced them to act.

By means of picket lines and demonstrations at their offices, press conferences and public forums, we can and will draw these Senators and Representatives out and make them play their hands for all the American people to see.

This newest abuse, along with thousands of others which the rich heap upon vets daily will not go unanswered. We will not forgive--we will not forget. VVAW is uniting vets from across the nation, regardless of type of discharge, to carry this fight to the very doors of those responsible for this attack demanding "decent benefits and a single-type discharge for all vets."■

Rich Get Off Hook

BOOKS ON THE WAR REVISE HISTORY

During the Vietnam War there were almost no books, plays or movies which dramatized the war. Although in past wars a flood of war adventure literature went hand in hand with the fighting, the Vietnam War didn't produce much more than the farce "Green Berets" which received the contempt it deserved from millions of Americans for whom some of the realities of the war appeared each night on the TV news.

Now, two years after the Indochinese won the war, the Vietnam war is front-page literary news. A flurry of books --Ron Kovic's Born on the 4th of July, Gloria Emerson's Winners and Losers, and Philip Caputo's A Rumor of War-- climb on the best sellers lists; major movies with name stars will hit the screen in the next few months.

The books are a new breed; no longer are they glorifying the American fighting forces and their "cause" as such books have in the past. Instead, both Winners and Losers and A Rumor of War are full of glimpses of what it was like to fight the war and why U. S. troops found themselves 10,000 miles from home. But despite the often striking truths in the books, neither author draws together the pieces into a real conclusion about the nature of the Vietnam War. Instead, they play into the overall propaganda about the war being pushed on us by the class that rules this country.

"Healing the wounds" of Vietnam, putting the war behind us, are favorite phrases of Jimmy Carter. As front man for the rich class, Carter has played well the role of trying to get the American people to forget the war and forget the lessons which the war taught: that a small country with a clear political determination to win can defeat superpower technology, that a mass movement like the anti-war movement in this country can help to force the government to end their aggressive war, that millions of sons of working people are sent off to fight a war for the profits of the rich.

But the memory of Vietnam will not disappear; and so the mouthpieces of the rich are willing to push books or movies which draw the kinds of conclusions they want about U. S. involvement in Southeast Asia, and the resulting uproar here at home.

Vietnam vets learned much about the nature of war from combat in Vietnam; now the rich try to pervert those lessons.

And that is what's happening with the books by Gloria Emerson, foreign correspondent for the New York Times during the Vietnam War, and Philip Caputo, foreign correspondent for the Chicago Tribune.

Winners and Losers is a collection of interviews with people whose lives were affected by the war--everyone from a National Liberation Front soldier, a prisoner in one of Saigon's notorious prisons, anti-war activists in the U. S., Vietnam vets, families of resisters, to people who wholeheartedly supported the U. S. involvement in Indochina. During the war, Emerson often played an important part as an anti-war writer--I watched some of the brass in the 1st Air Cav turn somersaults in panic at the thought of her arriving in in the area since she wanted to talk to the grunts rather than the officers and was not bought off with special favors as easily as other correspondents. Her articles about the tiger cages on Con Son Island provided one more exposé of the brutality of Saigon's puppet government, and the involvement of U. S. business in profitting from these instruments of torture.

But this book doesn't make it. Inside the dozens of interviews and comments are some important ideas, as when a Vietnamese patriot says, "Much has been said about this war's being a mistake as though it were correctable. It is not; it is part of a larger pattern.... After 1945 one type of colonialism...was replaced by a new form of domination maintained by large countries with extensive resources, territories and populations operating through foreign military and economic aid programs.... We have to watch these superpowers."

But in the choice of individual interviews and in the author's comments, there is a subtle but dominating message --one that reads out to the same message the government is putting forward. For instance, Emerson quotes an anti-war New York suburbanite as saying, "The one thing that's still walking from the sixties is the ecology movement.... They can't knock it down or kill it."

Or her comments on VVAW; after writing about the impact of Operation Dewey Canyon III (the 1971 action where VVAW members threw back their war medals in Washington) she summarizes the state of the organization saying, "It took a while for VVAW to die...." Attempts to declare VVAW dead in the past, either by journalists or the government have been notably unsuccessful.

The war is over, Emerson's message goes, and with it all the struggle against a system where the rich use us to fight their wars. There are no interviews with people who fought against the war, learned the nature of the imperialist system, and continue to battle to change that system. And you can search her book in vain to find more than a memory of struggle-- there is nothing which points toward the future.

Caputo's book comes from a different direction, though the final conclusion is much the same. Caputo was a young lieutenant with the first full Marine Brigade to be sent to Vietnam and was a part of the change from simply guarding the perimeter at Da Nang (so the ARVN could fight the war) to active U. S. military operations (for instance when various ARVN factions were fighting each other in Da Nang and leaving all the operations against the NLF to the Americans).

There are a vivid series of jolts to the memory of anyone who fought in Vietnam; Caputo captures much of the chaos and sense of futility which was a big part of Vietnam combat. Sent to the rear after a couple of months in the field, Caputo was given the job of casualty reporting, watching his friends come in on stretchers or in body bags. No longer gung ho about fighting for "democracy," he nevertheless volunteered to go back to the field out of frustration and a sense of obligation to his friends who were still there. In his own private act of resistance he refuses orders for ceremonial parades; he tries to convince incoming troops of what he has learned during the war.

But finally, the book says that you can't fight the system. In a brief postscript Caputo talks about his years after he got out of the Marines; "I had drifted into the anti-war movement," he writes, "though I was never passionately involved in it. I eventually joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War, but my most explicit gesture of protest was made in 1970 when I mailed my cam-

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